

REMARKS

Claims 1-41, 45, 57, 90-100, and 133-144 will be pending in this application after the amendments set forth above have been entered. Claims 45 and 57 have been amended. Claims 42-44, 46-56, 58-65, and 101-132* have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge recognition by the Examiner of allowable subject matter in claims 1-41, 90-100, and 133-144 (*see* Office Action, page 6).

The Examiner objected to claims 45 and 57 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (*see* Office Action, page 7). In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 45 has been amended to include all of the limitations of independent claim 42, which has been canceled, and claim 57 has been amended to include all of the limitations of independent claim 54, which has been canceled. Thus, claims 45 and 57, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

For the reasons stated above, applicants believe that all the pending claims are allowable, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Nevertheless, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment, in connection with this Reply to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

* Claims 66-89 were previously canceled and claims 101-132 were previously withdrawn in the Reply to Restriction Requirement that was filed by applicants on April 26, 2004.


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If there are any questions regarding this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 3/24/05


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